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Book Notes

by DICK LOCHTE

Stars seem to add sparkle to book counters, which explains why Harper & Row has high hopes for British film critic Alexander Walker's portrait of "Dietrich." Due in October, the heavily illustrated volume will carry a $29.95 cover price. "Astaire, the Man, the Dancer" by Bob Thomas, with comments by the subject, is a St. Martin's title due Nov. 26. "Everybody's Man" (Putnam's; January) is a biography of James Stewart by Jhan Robbins, author of "Bess and Harry." "Sinatra: An American Classic" is a big, photo-rich study of the actor-singer by John Rockwell (Rolling Stone; $29.95; November). "Hepburn: Her Life in Pictures" by James Spada (Doubleday; $24.95; $14.95, paperback; October) is, as its title suggests, mainly pictorial, while Gary Carey's "Katharine Hepburn: A Hollywood Yankee" (Dell; $3.95, paperback; December) is not. Charles Higham, who has penned biographies of Bette Davis, Errol Flynn and Katharine Hepburn, now turns his attention to the other Hepburn, "Audrey" (Macmillan; $14.95; November). To prove the flesh is ever with us, as if proof were needed, we have Victoria Principal following her "The Body Principal" with "The Beauty Principal," "Stefanie Powers' Superlife," which, in November, tells us how to get things done with high energy and "Jaclyn Smith's Beauty Book," due next February, all from Simon & Schuster. "Raquel," presenting La Welch's total beauty and fitness secrets, arrives in October (Holt, Rinehart & Winston). Finally, "Morgan Fairchild's Superlooks" will be on view in October from Wallaby. Says she: "I was pudgy with white hair, white skin, white eyelashes, white eyebrows—and big thick glasses." But look at her now.

LITRIVIA—Norm Chandler Fox, whose "Trivia Challenge" arrives next month via Wallaby Books ($4.95, paperback), prepared a special book quiz that includes: (1) What was the first paperback to sell a million copies? (2) What was the original title of "Catch 22?" (3) What famous novelist edited Ian Fleming for NAL? (answers below)

★

PUBLISHERS ROW—The Scott Meredith Agency's auction of Jonathan Cott's proposed book about a woman claiming to be the reincarnation of an ancient Egyptian went to Bantam for an advance of $100,000 . . . . Another Meredith deal found Arthur C. Clarke agreeing to write two novels for Del Rey—"The Songs of Distant Earth" and "20,001: The Final Odyssey"—for a combined advance of $1.10. The publisher calls it a show of faith. The press release did not say what Meredith is calling it.

★

ANSWERS—(1) "How to Win Friends and Influence People," (2) "Catch 18," title changed because "Mila 18" was published earlier (3) E.L. Doctorow. A question not asked by Fox. Who is the author of Perigee's competing "Test Your Trivia I.Q." (October; $4.95)? Answer: Fox's wife, Loreen Arbus. Wonder how they divided up their joint trivia holdings.

★

EVENTS—*Sunday:* 4:30 p.m., Ann Marple and Mary Mahalovich Northe read their poetry at Hermosa Beach Community Center, 710 Pier Ave., Room 7 . . . . *Monday:* 1 p.m., Joyce Carole Oates reads from her "Mysteries of Winterthurn" on KCRW (89.9 FM) . . . . 8 p.m., children's books are discussed on Now in Paperback on the Arts and Entertainment Network . . . . *Tuesday:* 8 p.m., Richard Meltzer reads from "Prickly Heat and Cold," the second volume of his autobiography, at a publication party at Al's Bar (305 S. Hewitt, downtown L.A.); $2 . . . . 10 p.m., George Jonas talks about his "Vengeance" with Connie Martinson on Group W Channel 10 . . . . *Thursday:* noon, Marshall Berges, Adela Rogers St. Johns, Art Seidenbaum and Terry Moore guest at the Round Table West luncheon at the Ambassador Hotel. Call Marilyn Hudson, 386-3276 . . . . *Friday:* 2 p.m., Nigey Lennon adapts her "Alfred Jarry: The Man With the Axe" for KPFK (90.7 FM) . . . . 2-4 p.m., Audrey and Don Wood read their "Quick as a Cricket" at Pages Books for Children in Tarzana (18399 Ventura Blvd.) . . . . *Saturday:* 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Arthur Lerner conducts a one-day "Self-Awareness through Poetry" seminar at UCLA. Call 206-8456 . . . . 2-5 p.m., Gregg Rickman signs his "Philip K. Dick: In His Own Words" at Dangerous Visions in Sherman Oaks (13603 Ventura Blvd.) . . . . 5-7 p.m., Hallie Inglehart and her "Womanspirit: A Guide to Women's Wisdom" are celebrated at Bodhi Tree (8585 Melrose Ave.). Call 659-1733.

★

FINALLY—Before leaving the subject of celebrities caught between covers, notice should be given to the sequel everyone has been waiting for, Kenneth Anger's "Hollywood Babylon II" (Dutton; $19.95; October), which threatens to disclose low gossip about such departed favorites as Alfred Hitchcock, Grace Kelly and John Belushi, and living legends like Cary Grant, Loretta Young, Ronald Reagan and Burt Reynolds. It was Rex Reed, I believe, who summed it up for all of us when he described the original "Hollywood Babylon" as "brimming with detail and decadence . . . a gossip gourmet's delight." The Dutton publicists are even more generous. They're referring to Anger as "the Proust of Movie Gossip."

Best Sellers

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Placement on national list is noted in parentheses.

FICTION

1 **Lincoln** by Gore Vidal (Random House) (2)
2 **. . . And Ladies of the Club** by Helen Hooven Santmyer (Putnam's) (1)
3 **Full Circle** by Danielle Steel (Delacorte) (4)
4 **First Among Equals** by Jeffrey Archer (Linden) (7)
5 **The Aquitaine Progression** by Robert Ludlum (Random House) (3)
6 **Deep Six** by Clive Cussler (Simon & Schuster) (5)
7 **The Walking Drum** by Louis L'Amour (Bantam) (8)
8 **The HAJ** by Leon Uris (Doubleday) (6)
9 **Tough Guys Don't Dance** by Norman Mailer (Random House)
10 **The Wheel of Fortune** by Susan Howatch (Simon & Schuster) (9)
11 **Machine Dreams** by Jayne Anne Phillips (Dutton) (15)
12 **The Miko** by Eric Van Lustbader (Villard)
13 **Possessions** by Judith Michael (Simon & Schuster)
14 **The Butter Battle Book** by Dr. Seuss (Random House) (12)
15 **Hooligans** by William Diehl (Villard)

GENERAL

1 **In God's Name** by David A. Yallop (Bantam) (3)
2 **Wired: The Short Life and Fast Times of John Belushi** by Bob Woodward (Simon & Schuster) (4)
3 **The Kennedys: An American Drama** by Peter Collier and David Horowitz (Summit) (2)
4 **Eat to Win: The Sports Nutrition Bible** by Robert Haas (Rawson) (1)
5 **The Nightmare Years: 1930-1940** by William L. Shirer (Little, Brown) (6)
6 **Nothing Down** by Robert G. Allen (Simon & Schuster) (5)
7 **D.V.** by Diana Vreeland (Knopf) (10)
8 **The March of Folly: From Troy to Vietnam** by Barbara W. Tuchman (Knopf)
9 **The Fire From Within** by Carlos Castaneda (Simon & Schuster) (8)
10 **Chef Paul Prudhomme's Louisiana Kitchen** by Paul Prudhomme (Morrow)
11 **Caveat: Realism, Reagan and Foreign Policy** by Alexander M. Haig Jr. (Macmillan)
12 **Good Morning, Merry Sunshine: A Father's Journal of His Child's First Year** by Bob Greene (Atheneum) (7)
13 **Zig Ziglar's Secrets of Closing the Sale** by Zig Ziglar (Revell) (9)
14 **Motherhood: The Second Oldest Profession** by Erma Bombeck (McGraw-Hill) (11)
15 **Vengeance** by George Jonas (Simon & Schuster)

AND THE CRITICS COMMEND

The Coevolution of Climate and Life, Stephen H. Schneider and Randi Londer (Sierra Club). Scientific exploration of the effect of climatological changes.

Herself Defined, Barbara Guest (Doubleday). Biography of 20th-Century poet Hilda Doolittle.

Kill and Tell, William X. Kienzele (Andrews, McMeel & Parker). Mystery novel about a Catholic priest trying to solve the murder of an automobile executive.

The Killing of the Unicorn, Peter Bogdanovich (Morrow). Memoir by the film director about his relationship with murdered actress/model Dorothy Stratten.

Something Out There, Nadine Gordimer (Viking). Collection of short stories set in South Africa.

THE BOOK REVIEW/LOS ANGELES TIMES

Letters

Relative Reality

Regarding Lee Dembart's review of Stanley Goldberg's "Understanding Relativity" (Book Review, Aug. 5), I am writing to deplore the wrong-headed dogmatism with which the reviewer summarily rejects the book's theses.

One does not have to be a solipsist or believe that the world is a dream to realize that the "real world" is nothing but an assumption, corresponding to a practical attitude, that is not only wholly unverifiable but probably devoid of meaning. As for the laws of nature being inventions of man's mind, this is obviously the case, in the strict sense. The question is how and why man came to invent them.

LUCAS KAMP
Pasadena

Young Book Seller

Speaking of books, "and them that sells 'em!"

I asked the sweet young thing in the book shop (her first summer job, no doubt) if she had Ben Franklin's autobiography. She inquired, "Who wrote it?" As I searched for a twinkle in the eye, which was absent, I told her Ben Franklin wrote Ben Franklin's autobiography. "Is it new?" she wanted to know. I told her that it was new around 200 years ago. "That long ago," she exclaimed. I told her, "Yes, he wrote it while he was alive, but unfortunately, he's dead now." "That's too bad, but we have many interesting biographies. I just read 'Mae West.' "

However, the pride she lacked of work, she more than made up for in pride of self (bleached hair in newest cut, a body that wouldn't quit and a mind that never started). But these will all serve her well as long as they last!

True, beauty is only skin deep but, obviously, deep enough for any man, including bosses!

PAT COIL
Laguna Hills

In Search of a Heroine

I would like to locate the present whereabouts of Maria Gulovich Peck, recently of Oxnard, Calif., who was a heroine of the Slovak army's uprising against the Nazis in August, 1944. Nearly 18 members of OSS and British SOE missions involved in this revolt were captured and executed by the Nazis. Maria led four members of these missions to freedom and was decorated for her bravery by Gen. William J. Donovan, commander of the OSS.

The Czechoslovakian government is planning a major commemoration on the 40th anniversary of the uprising (and missions' role) in which the State Department, American Embassy in Prague and U.S. Information Agency are cooperating. I wish to inform Maria of these plans. As a former war correspondent, I am writing about the revolt and the missions for a memorial publication planned by USIA.

WILLIAM J. MILLER
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Truro, Mass. 02666

Board Rooms Besought

For a major study of the social habits of executives, I need communicative individuals to participate as named or anonymous interviewees.

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'The Apocalyptics'

Continued from Page 3

correctly. They *voted*. To say that scientists have been voting destroys our capacity to take the resultant conclusions seriously." The sarcastic tone betrays a confusion between established science—that neat, enclosed package of empirically derived facts about the world—and the process of scientific inquiry, which attempts to turn unknown into known. It doesn't operate by ballot, but it does rely on relative consensus to favor certain hypotheses over others. In a matter of such urgent medical import as carcinogenesis, judgment—a most non-scientifically measurable but decidedly intelligent quality—becomes a crucial factor. Whose judgment are we to prefer—cautious scientists or a layperson who suggests we throw caution to the winds and ignore the possible health hazards of the 6,000 new chemicals being created every week?

Efron is at her rashest in tackling that old chestnut in scientific controversy: the relevance of animal testing to humans. She reproduces a chart of 54 carcinogens, of which only 10 show a correlation between man and beast. On the basis of that, she would shelve animal tests as predictors for humans. But while scientists continue to debate their validity, none of them are about to toss them out—they're still the best tests we have.

Efron portrays the apocalyptics as fearful, sounding premature hysterical warnings. But she seems the one who is afraid to look doomsday in the face, walling herself up in a political fortress and taking potshots at the other side instead of seeking the truth, which might be a good deal more frightening than a conspiracy.

Strachan, a former Book Review columnist, is creating environmental games.

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